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CASES OF POISONING BY ARSENIC.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

Sir,—I conceive it a duty due the profession as well as myself, to make known, through the medium of the medical press, the symptoms exhibited during life, and the appearances presented upon the examination of the body, after death, of the late George T. Kinney—not merely on account of the interest which has been excited by the late judicial investigation of the causes which may have produced his death, but that my brethren may learn from some other source than the erroneous reports of several of the daily newspapers, the history of the case. I refrain from making any comments upon the subject—but would present general notes of several other cases of poisoning by arsenic which have fallen under my observation during the past season. Although I was allowed in neither case an autopsy, they may not be thought altogether destitute of interest, as a means of showing how great a variation is observable, in the most prominent symptoms, in the different cases.

*Boston, Dec., 1840.*

Respectfully yours,

D. HUMPHREYS STORER.

On the morning of the 9th of August last, between 12 and 1 o'clock, I was called to visit the late Mr. Kinney. He was lying in bed, complaining of an indescribable sensation at the epigastrium, and great distress in the lower portion of the abdomen; the pulse were very feeble; the surface of the body was cold and damp; the countenance was ghastly and slightly livid; the left fore-arm and hand were also livid. He had vomited, just before I entered his chamber, a yellowish green fluid—and a fluid of a similar character had passed his bowels. I learned that he was attacked with vomiting about fourteen hours previous to my visit, and that he had been constantly growing sicker from that time. I ordered sinapisms to be applied to the epigastrium and feet; forty drops of laudanum to be administered in hot water and brandy *pro re nata*—and an opiate injection to be thrown up his bowels.

Upon my second visit, between 5 and 6 o'clock of the same morning, I found him more unwell; his sufferings were aggravated; the restlessness had increased; he complained of great thirst; was constantly calling for drink, and as constantly vomiting; the bowels appeared to be much more irritable than they had been—as there was a continual wish to evacuate them. The discharges were perfectly liquid, and yellow-

ish. Slight twitchings of the muscles of the interior of the thighs were perceptible to the eye. The laudanum prescribed at my former visit, had been given, but the injection had not been administered. I again requested it might be employed—and ordered in addition a pill of calomel and opium.

I saw my patient again at 10 o'clock, A. M. He was rapidly sinking; the vomiting had ceased about an hour previously—but he was much more feeble; he complained of great dyspnoea; he was so much distressed that he could not lie in bed; but seated upon a large chamber vessel, the contents of his bowels were passing from him in a constant stream.

In a few moments, Dr. Bigelow saw him with me. He had just been removed from the vessel upon which he had been sitting, and was seated in a chair, with his head thrown backward, and his feet resting upon the edge of the bedstead. The circulation was very languid—the pulsation of the radial artery was scarcely perceptible; the tongue was cold to the touch; he was almost insensible. We examined the discharges from the bowels, which were entirely liquid, and judged the quantity which had passed the previous three hours, to be about three quarts.

I saw him one hour afterwards. He had been dead three quarters of an hour. His body was in the same position as when I made my last visit. Muscular contractions, so strong as nearly to bring the knees in contact, although separated at some distance, were well marked, and observed with astonishment by the bystanders.

The body was examined by Dr. J. B. S. Jackson, in presence of Dr. Bigelow and myself, at 4 o'clock, P. M.—and he has kindly prepared his notes of the *post-mortem* examination to accompany these remarks. Dr. Gay has also furnished me with a chemical examination of the contents of the stomach.

"*AUTOPSY, five hours after death.*—Externally very rigid; slight contraction of some of the muscles produced by striking them smartly with the fist. Left hand and fore-arm quite livid. Abdomen moderately full and firm.

Peritoneum unusually moist, and in the cavity of the pelvis a small quantity of fluid which appeared rather bloody; but, as the light was imperfect, the color could not be clearly distinguished.

Pharynx somewhat red, but not more so than often seen. Oesophagus healthy.

Stomach of average size. Contained about 3xx. of moderately thick, opaque, colored liquid, not bloody, nor otherwise remarkable.—In the large curvature was an ecchymosis of the mucous coat, forming a deep, dark red, well-defined patch, equal to about three inches in diameter, the membrane at this part appearing rather thick, but not softened; extended somewhat to the sub-mucous cellular tissue, but not to the muscular. Two similar spots near cardia and towards large curvature, about two thirds or three quarters of an inch in diameter, but less deep than the first. Mucous membrane elsewhere rather more red than usual and rather soft in some places, but not otherwise remarkable; no

corrugation, ulceration, effusion of lymph, nor adherent mucus. As soon as the ecchymosis was perceived, I suspected very strongly that Mr. K. had died from the effects of arsenic, and looked carefully for grains of the white oxide, but found none. The contents, however, were set aside and subsequently carried to Dr. Gay for chemical examination.

Intestines of medium size. Contained several pints of a faint yellow, serous fluid, mixed with a considerable quantity of flaky mucus, but without any trace of feces or of fecal odor. Mucous membrane generally rather red, more so in some parts than in others, and particularly in the rectum which was examined to within an inch of its termination; no ulceration nor adherent secretion; in the duodenum were several small, but deep spots of ecchymosis.

Liver, spleen and kidneys healthy. Bladder strongly contracted, containing scarcely a drachm of fluid.

In the thorax nothing remarkable, except a trace of ecchymosis on the inner surface of the left ventricle. The cavity of the pericardium, also, contained a little bloody serum.

It appeared to me at the time of the dissection, and I think now, that the symptoms and morbid appearances alone would have shown this to be a case of arsenic rather than of cholera, even if the presence of poison in the contents of the stomach had not been proved; for, though ecchymosis has been found in the stomach in cholera, it certainly is not a common appearance, and of 11 cases which I saw in this city in the year 1832, and of nearly all of which I took full notes, it is not mentioned in a single one; in cases of arsenic, on the other hand, I presume it is a common appearance.

The bloody tinge of the fluid in the cavity of the peritoneum and pericardium in the above case, if there was no mistake as to the fact, is interesting as connected with the ecchymosis in the stomach and the heart found in this and similar cases. I have never seen anything of the kind noticed in any recorded case of poisoning by arsenic, except in Dr. Cotting's (*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for March 7th, 1838), the dissection of which I saw, and in which there were 'three or four masses of dark coagulated blood upon the free surface of the mesentery, about two or three lines in diameter.' If the ecchymosis of the stomach were not sufficient, the appearances just noticed would go far towards distinguishing the above case from cholera, as in this last we find rather a deficiency of the natural moisture in the serous membranes, and certainly nothing like an effusion of blood."

*Chemical Examination of the Contents of the Stomach, by Dr. M. Gay.*—There were about 18 ounces of the contents of the stomach. They were of a brown color, giving out a very little odor, and containing but little solid matter. There were no white particles resembling arsenious acid. They were examined to ascertain if any irritant poison was contained in them, and there was found arsenious acid. By the process of Christison a portion of the arsenic was separated and reduced to the metallic state; this was oxidized, and the arsenious acid thus formed was dissolved and tested by ammoniated nitrate of silver and ammoniated sulphate of copper. There were in the whole contents of the

stomach ten grains of arsenious acid, all of which was in a state of solution.

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On the 27th of June last, I was sent for to visit three Irishmen who had been taking arsenic. It appears, that owing to the unpardonable carelessness of an apothecary of this city, who had spread with lard, a quantity of gingerbread, into which he had mixed half of an ounce of the white oxide of arsenic, and placed it in his cellar for the purpose of destroying rats, these men, who were at work in his cellar, were poisoned. They each ate of the gingerbread at 11 o'clock, A. M.; two of them partook more freely than the third. A short time after having eaten it they felt sick—and between 12 and 1 o'clock, P. M., began to vomit. I saw them the next morning at 9 o'clock—twenty-two hours after the poison had been taken. One of these men was beyond relief—he was in bed, writhing about in great agony, complaining of intense burning at the stomach, which he described as insupportable; he had been vomiting incessantly since noon of the previous day; had not had a constant disposition to purge, but had suffered much from tenesmus; the abdomen was greatly swollen, and pressure upon it produced uneasiness; the pulse were scarcely perceptible; the countenance was ghastly and livid, and covered with a cold moisture; the vision was dim—the conjunctiva of the eyes was of a vivid red color; the entire surface of the body was cold and wet, and for the most part livid; he was at moments delirious. He died at 3 o'clock, P. M., and when I called again the latter part of the afternoon, he was enclosed in his coffin. The whole face and neck, the only parts to be seen, were livid.

The second man seems to have eaten more of the bread than either of the others, if his story can be believed. After visiting the former, who lived in his neighborhood, I looked in upon him. He was lying quietly in bed—complaining, however, occasionally, of considerable distress at the stomach. He had been vomiting the greater part of the time since he had taken the poison—and trusting, from his pulse being good, and his countenance and skin appearing well, that he had thrown off the arsenic, I administered diluent drinks; and ordered six leeches to be applied to the epigastrium, which was tender upon pressure—and an ounce of castor oil to be given, the bowels not having been opened since the drug was swallowed. The next morning, forty-four hours after the arsenic had been taken, I found him apparently much better. His bowels had been operated upon by the cathartic; the distress at the epigastrium was relieved—and he, in a word, had *no complaint to make*. The evening of that day, I was sent for to visit him, and found him in great pain, with constant nausea, insatiable thirst and feeble pulse; his eyes were blood-shot. I prescribed sinapisms to the epigastrium, and pills of calomel and opium. The next morning he was much more comfortable, and I gave him nothing but diluent drinks. The following morning, the *fourth day* after the poison had been taken, I found him at a neighbor's house, to which he had walked, sitting up, dressed, and exhibiting no little confusion of mind in his conversation; he could not

be persuaded to go home, nor to do anything I wished. He had evidently been drinking spirit. He died that afternoon about 2 o'clock—and when I saw the body an hour afterwards, it was not merely livid, but *perfectly blue*.

The third individual had eaten but little of the bread, and his symptoms were much milder. He complained of considerable pain in the bowels, which continued more or less severe for a week, after the first day's vomiting and purging. His abdomen was much swollen; upon the second day of his sickness his pantaloons could not be made to meet over the umbilicus by a distance of six inches by actual measurement. This enlargement gradually subsided, and in the course of a week or ten days, he was at work, as well, with the exception of slight debility, as usual.

In connection with the above-mentioned cases, I cannot refrain from adding another from my note-book. The history of the case was taken from an intelligent eye-witness, at the time it occurred.

— Church, on Thursday, Sept. 10th, 1840, was very much intoxicated; ate nothing that day, nor the previous one. On Friday, 11th, swallowed two drachms of white arsenic in solution, at 2 o'clock, P. M. Immediately after taking it, laid down; at 3 o'clock, came down stairs, and appeared very feeble; complained that 'he was so weak that he could hardly stand.' Countenance pale; very thirsty, constantly asking for drink, which produced no vomiting. At 4 o'clock, physicians were called, who gave emetics, which produced no effect. At this time, slight cramps were observed of lower extremities; limbs very weak and tottering; no pain of any kind complained of; no swelling of the abdomen; eyes red and blood-shot; skin at no time either cold or damp, not even for some time after death. He died about 7 o'clock, P. M., *five hours after poison had been swallowed*, perfectly rational, without the slightest struggle. Twitchings of the muscles were observed about twenty minutes after death.

#### OBITUARY OF THEODORE WOODWARD, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

WHEN one who has been highly distinguished by his station and professional character, reaches the termination of his earthly career, it is an act of justice to departed worth and the spontaneous impulse of ingenuous minds, while mingling their sympathies with the bereaved, to take some retrospect of such brilliant examples as are worthy of a place in the annals of the profession. Such an example, in the estimation of those who knew him best, was the subject of this notice, whose melancholy exit occurred Oct. 10, 1840, at the Vermont Asylum for the Insane in Brattleborough.

Dr. Theodore Woodward was born in Hanover, N. H., July 17, 1788. In early youth he was cast on his own resources, and became the architect of his own fame and fortune. Thus situated, he gave early promise of a genius, which united courage and perseverance to encounter and over-

come opposing difficulties, and a thirst for knowledge which procured for him such friendly aids and facilities as he improved to make rapid advances in literature and general science, and to attain very respectable qualifications, preparatory to the study of medicine. He commenced the study of medicine under the instruction of Dr. Nathan Smith, whose character is already before the public. Dr. Smith was to him both a friend and relative, being his maternal uncle; and to whom, in some important traits, Dr. W. has since exhibited a strong resemblance. His term of study was completed with Dr. Adin Kendrick, of Poultney, Vt.

Dr. Woodward commenced the practice of medicine at the age of 21, in Castleton, Vt. Although very youthful in appearance, he soon acquired, to an unusual extent, the confidence and patronage of the public, which was continued and increased nearly to the end of his professional career.

In Dr. W. were combined, perhaps in an equal degree, those qualifications which are requisite for the successful practice of both physic and surgery; and he early attained an ascendancy which led him to be extensively consulted by his professional brethren, as well as other persons of distinction, and at considerable distance from his residence. Thus distinguished, he understood how to avail himself profitably of his extended means of observation and experience; for although he sought from books the treasures which were daily gathered from each field of discovery, he was not content to float on the tide of professional routine, or to take things on the dictum of others, unless corroborated by careful experience. Neither was he satisfied to be the mere receptacle or channel of communication, without adding his tribute to the resources of his favorite science. Such were some of the qualities which made him the constant, laborious student of everything which related to the nature and cure of disease, and blended with unusual symmetry the characters and avocations of the student and the physician.

Dr. Woodward was distinguished for quickness of apprehension and acute discrimination when investigating disease, and great shrewdness in the expediency and adaptation of remedies, so that in cases admitting or requiring despatch, his conclusions sometimes appeared to result from intuition or precipitation rather than investigation and reason. Still he was not deficient in cool and mature deliberation, whenever the time and occasion required it. Hence his resources were seldom inadequate to the most alarming exigences of practice. He usually maintained much reserve in regard to the name or special qualities of remedies prescribed, and when questioned by his patients or their friends, was in the habit of giving such facetious and evasive replies as were rather the occasion of amusement than offence. His habitual vivacity made him a welcome and profitable visitor on most occasions, while his energetic manner, self-possession and reputation for success, won the almost unlimited confidence of his patients.

During the course of his practice Dr. W. performed most of the operations of surgery which are regarded as critical and important, and was no less distinguished for his fortunate selection of the proper time and medical treatment of operations, than for his accurate knowledge of

parts and manual tact; hence he was unusually successful, and extensively employed as a surgeon. Indeed, few country practitioners, even of a much longer professional life, have had an equal opportunity of observing so great an extent and variety, both of general and surgical diseases; few have rendered the healing art more practically beneficial, and few have profited by it to accumulate a richer fund of experience.

Dr. Woodward was to a great degree engrossed in the business of his profession, and perhaps to a fault abstracted from the ordinary concerns of life. Medicine was the absorbing topic of his soul. Hence he was seldom found in the arena of political or theological controversy; yet he was a firm believer of revealed truth, and highly regarded the morality which it inculcates. He was also a patron of the moral and educational institutions of his country.

Soon after becoming established in practice, Dr. Woodward's attention was turned to the condition of medical education in his adopted State. An extensive region in which he was located, was found destitute of a school of medicine, such as was already regarded as necessary to afford to pupils demonstrative instruction in certain branches, and that kind of tuition intermediate between books and experience, which is imparted by public lectures on all branches of medicine. Many students of medicine, whose means of private instruction were very limited, were found, either necessarily or willingly, to forego the advantages of public instruction, and to enter the profession with qualifications much below the standard of education in the more favored States, and quite inadequate to the responsibilities of their station. In these circumstances, we find Dr. W. adding to his labors, his usefulness and his honors, those of a public teacher of medicine. This he did not aspire to do by seeking to enter some well-endowed and honorable institution; his was the very different and difficult business, by individual effort, unaided by legislative patronage, to create, to collect and arrange the materials of an independent college of medicine, remote from many of the facilities and advantages enjoyed by such institutions in our cities. By the aid of his worthy colleague, Dr. Selah Gridley, and the contributions of some friends of the enterprise, he succeeded in founding and establishing the Vermont Academy of Medicine. In this effort he received the hearty co-operation of many professional friends, who, it is believed, concur in awarding to Dr. W. the chief merit of having placed the advantages of competent medical instruction within the reach of many hundreds of young men who were seeking the qualifications of a useful and honorable profession.

As an instructor, Dr. Woodward was characterized by extensive research and thorough acquaintance with the best authorities extant, ample resources of experience and good humor, which were well combined with some peculiar eccentricities to render his instruction thorough, clear and impressive. Perhaps there is no better testimony of his success and reputation as a teacher, than the twenty years' uninterrupted prosperity of the school, during which term he was one of its most efficient agents; and the numerous classes of his pupils, both public and private,



who have found cause to approve his precepts by the test of sober experience.

Dr. W. was possessed of a firm and athletic physical constitution, which for many years seemed to endure, unharmed, the buffetings of professional hardship. Always alive to the duties of his station and the impulse of benevolent sympathy, he seemed to regard no sacrifice of his own personal comfort as too great, when required to relieve human suffering. His health at length became gradually impaired, and he suffered at first from a spasmodic affection; and more recently by severe paroxysms of neuralgia, consequent to any considerable fatigue or exposure. Both affections were probably dependent upon some disorder of the digestive functions. Still he remitted not his exertions to comply with the calls of those to whom he had been long endeared by the relation of physician and patient, until the neuralgia became occasionally alternated with paraplegia, and the last affection was sometimes suspended by intervals of partial insanity of mind. During several years previous to this period there had been apparently an irregular progress of disease, commencing with derangement of the digestive system (probably functional) and followed successively by epilepsy, neuralgia, paraplegia and mental insanity; each succeeding affection alternating for a time with the preceding one, and at length seeming to displace it. Moreover each form of disease was readily mitigated and removed by appropriate remedies, and had every aspect of being curable, in a less laborious patient, and yet was as often re-produced by professional privations and exposures, until the mental powers yielded to the combined pressure of physical disease and mental effort; and in the meridian of his usefulness and honors, his health, his intellect and life were successively the sacrifices of his ardent devotion to the healing art. The paralysis of the lower extremities gradually ceased to alternate with the monomania, and combined in a more general form of paralysis and insanity.

In this afflictive condition Dr. Woodward was conveyed to the Asylum, where it was hoped he might derive some benefit from the humane and skilful attentions which are bestowed on an unfortunate class of our citizens. But notwithstanding he received every attention from his worthy friend Dr. Rockwell, it was soon evident that he had attained to a state of *dementia* which was confirmed and irremediable.

Excepting now and then some bright scintillations of the wreck of genius, which like "the ruling passion strong in death," always bore the tincture of his profession, Dr. W. lingered many months, exhibiting to his friends but a sad memento of what he had long been to them, "the man of hope." The course of disease and exhaustion was at length completed. It is supposed there was some reviving of intelligence and affectionate recognition of his family near the closing scene of life, shortly after which, death, like a friendly messenger, unlocked the prison house, and the indestructible spirit escaped.

J. P.

Castleton, Dec., 1840.



## ANEURISM OF THE AORTA.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—I send you the following case, thinking that it may interest your readers, both from the singularity of the circumstances and the character of the physical lesion.

I was called to the hall of the Debating Club, in this town, by a messenger, stating that Mr. G., a man of about sixty years, was bleeding to death. Hastening to the spot, I found the Society and their lady audience in great trouble, surrounding the unfortunate individual. The latter was leaning forward, ejecting from his mouth and nostrils copious streams of blood, of which there was already a large pool on the floor. The fluid seemed to come with both a cough and an effort to vomit, and was of arterial hue. Administering to him a considerable quantity of common salt, which he swallowed with eagerness, I proceeded to make preparations to bleed him; but finding him sink rapidly, and finally fall into a complete syncope, I placed him in the horizontal posture, and perceived the pulse again beat a few strokes and ultimately entirely cease. Stimulants were freely used, and all possible means of restoration resorted to; but in vain—no symptoms of reanimation could be obtained. The man had been speaking on the subject matter of the debate, paused a moment, coughed slightly, was immediately overwhelmed with a gush of blood, and died.

Having obtained leave to examine the body, I proceeded (17 hours after death) to seek for the cause of this sudden event.

The lungs were found to present no unhealthy appearance, save in the bronchi and their ramifications. These were almost entirely filled with coagula, while their mucous membrane presented a hue, as though stained with blood. This color, however, was easily removed, by slight washing or by scraping with the knife. A few tubercles existed, about the apex of either lung, very small and observed with difficulty.

The heart was apparently slightly enlarged. The right auricle did not seem to have undergone any perceptible change from a healthy condition. The right ventricle was a little enlarged and considerably thickened, its walls measuring one quarter of an inch in thickness. The muscular columns were thick and strong. The left auricle was a little thickened, and appeared to have an increased capacity. The left ventricle was enlarged, its sides being seven eighths of an inch in thickness, and its columns remarkably strong and well developed. Its capacity was not ascertained by measurement, but it appeared to me but slightly increased. The valves of the aorta were ossified; the mitral valves presented the appearance of thickening, but the other valves seemed healthy. The coronary arteries were materially enlarged, and the whole heart, in short, presented an aspect of increased muscularity.

The aorta offered to our view the most remarkable phenomena. Dilating immediately from the tricuspid valve, it attained a diameter of three and a half inches, which it maintained for five and a half inches, in its course, when it again became of a normal size. The coat presented a variety in its thickness, being thinner than natural at some

points, while in others it seemed to be thickened. Laminae of various sizes were plentifully distributed through the entire parietes. This enlarged arterial sac communicated with another, immediately behind the arch, and opening into it by a foramen, which allowed the passage of the forefinger. The second sac was partially filled with adhering layers of coagulum, and might have held a half pint in addition. On close examination, there was discovered at the point at which this tumor pressed on the left bronchus, to which it was adherent, a small circular opening, of the diameter of three sixteenths to one quarter of an inch, bearing the marks of ulceration, and allowing free egress from the sac to the bronchus. The parietes of the tumor were in all other places very thick and strong.

The vertebrae, on which the tumor had pressed, were absorbed, to a very great extent, the process of removal appearing to have gone on to the half of the bodies of two bones, together with the inter-vertebral substance. The sternum, too, had suffered from absorption, in consequence of the pressure anteriorly.

Such were the lesions, according to my imperfect notes, discovered in the post-mortem examination. As to the condition of the carotid and subclavian arteries, it was in no essential or perceptible respect abnormal.

Of the symptoms of the disease, during life, I have been able to obtain but a very imperfect history—as I have no knowledge of any accurate examination of the case ever having been made. The most remarkable point about the man, was a very loud, hard and dry cough, which is described by his neighbors, as audible “for a full half mile.” I have heard the cough at a remarkable distance. The patient at times complained of a sensation of gnawing in the chest, but not constant. He was the sexton of one of the churches, and labored with his hands in other occupations—enjoyed what he called good health, and habitually attended the meetings of the Society, in whose room he so suddenly expired.

BENJ. H. WEST, M.D.

*Pawtucket, R. I., Dec. 21st, 1840.*

#### DIVISION OF THE STERNO-CLEIDO-MASTOID MUSCLE FOR THE CURE OF WRY-NECK.

BY F. ENAITH, M.D., BOSTON, ENG.

MR. FRED. WARD, æt. 21, the son of a wealthy Lincolnshire brewer, was born with wry-neck, and, being anxious to be relieved from the deformity, he consulted me on Thursday evening, Oct. 22d; after proposing an operation, to which he consented, I divided the contracted muscle on the following morning.

After ascertaining the outline of, I passed the knife under the tendinous portion of the muscle, and then turned the cutting edge of the knife towards the muscle, in order to divide it, without wounding the skin; the division of the tendon was announced by loud cracking sounds,

such (according to the patient's statement) as might be produced by breaking sticks across the knee. I have divided the tendo-Achillis for talipes, but its clicking is very different from the sound I am describing. The operation scarcely occupied a quarter of a minute, and not more than two or three drops of blood flowed from the small puncture; the patient scarcely felt the introduction of the knife, but the most excruciating pain followed the division of the tendon. When the muscle was divided, it sprang upwards with great violence, and appeared to tear away bands of cellular membrane, which connected it with adjacent muscles. Upon each contraction of the muscle, the countenance gave evidence of the most acute suffering. When the division of the tendon was effected, the distorted side of the neck bobbed up, like an automaton figure, when acted upon by machinery, suddenly put into motion. The small puncture made to introduce the knife healed on the following day, and the patient was able to resume his business three days after the operation.

On the day following the operation, I placed a strap round the head, and another under the axilla, which buckled to a strap from the head-strap, so that I could use considerable power in bringing the head to the left side; but, I think, there is not much occasion now for the strapping, as the patient can move his head in all directions, and without effort keep it in a natural position.—*Lancet*.

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## BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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BOSTON, JANUARY 6, 1841.

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### PEPPERELL INSTITUTION FOR THE INSANE.

IN the year 1825, Dr. Cutler, of Pepperell, Mass., a town 40 miles N. W. of Boston, without particularly wishing to embrace within the circle of his practice the diseases of the mind, unexpectedly found himself so constantly consulted by the friends of the insane, in consequence of the fortunate manner in which he had treated a few marked cases, that he was actually obliged to make some extra provision for the accommodation of that class of patients. We had contemplated a minute historical account of this now quite celebrated asylum, but it would occupy too much room in the Journal, without being essential to the object at first contemplated in this notice.

The rules and regulations which were instituted at the commencement for the government of the Asylum, are appended, to show the complete organization of the establishment, which has grown extensively into public favor, and continues to maintain the character that we trust it will always sustain.

"1st. It is the duty of the attendants to devote their whole time to the boarding patients. Let your conduct to the patients be always civil, respectful and polite. Use no unnecessary authority. Let your language be calm and persuasive. Endeavor to control them by persuasion; and if compulsion be necessary, use it with great care and wisdom, remembering

to explain to them the reason and intention of your procedure. It is your duty to exercise a moral influence over the patients, and endeavor to improve and amuse their minds. When they are in their rooms, amuse them by reading some appropriate book, by chess, checkers, shuttlecock, nine-pins, &c. Strict attention to be paid to their dress, &c. Particular attention given to them when they ride or walk. Attend to their deportment, and correct all improper talk and conduct. Never call at stores or any public house, and have no conversation with the people on the way. Never appear pleased with any indecent language or behavior, but always show your disapprobation.



The above drawing will convey a just idea of the general external appearance of the two principal edifices. The face of the building in the rear of the two gates, has a front of 78 feet, with a depth of 44 in one direction, and in the L form of another division there are various apartments that could not be represented in the present profile view. The other house has a front of 42 and a depth of 87 feet.

2d. All the boarders in a suitable state of mind must attend morning and evening devotion, at the ringing of the bell for prayers, accompanied by their nurses and attendants—and also attend church on Sundays.

3d. *Exercises.*—Their exercise must commence immediately after morning devotion. Those who labor on the farm and in the work-shop, go to their business under the direction of their attendants; and those who exercise by riding, walking, &c., with their attendants. All must return to

their rooms at 11, A. M., to be in readiness for dinner at 12, M. All the patients in a suitable state of mind, dine at the family table under the direction of the physician, Dr. C., and those who are not, in their rooms under the direction of their attendants.

"4th. *Afternoon exercises* commence at two o'clock, and are somewhat similar to those of the forenoon (in the summer season) with the addition of amusements in the grove, such as bowling, swinging, and riding the flying horses. All retire to their rooms at five o'clock, and prepare for supper, which they take in the same manner as dinner and breakfast.

"5th. At half past eight o'clock all attend evening devotion, and at nine retire to their beds."

With regard to the internal conveniences and medical treatment, a few items are subjoined, amply sufficient to show that the comfort and well-being of those confided to Dr. Cutler's care are promptly attended to.

"The course of treatment from the commencement has been adapted to the derangement of the physical system, and a strict attention paid to the moral management of the patients. One principle has been to treat them as sane and as ladies and gentlemen. Their exercise, which always has been considered an important agent in the curative process, is walking, riding on horseback and in carriages, bowling, swinging, &c., and also manual labor on the farm, which is one of the best exercises in use. The work-shop has also been in use."

About five hundred and twenty-eight patients have been received since 1825, and not far from nine-tenths, it is supposed, have been discharged well or greatly improved.

In the year 1839 Dr. Parker, a pupil of Dr. Cutler's, became a joint partner in the concerns of the institution, which still continues, under their management, one of the best private hospitals for the insane in the country, and it shows how much can be accomplished by perseverance in the cause of humanity, on the part of a single individual.

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*Infirmiry for Diseases of the Lungs.*—Through the mislaying of the Third Annual Report, and not from any design to neglect the unobtrusive claims of an admirable medical charity, do we explain this late notice of the last year's doings of the Infirmiry. In the language of the report, the prevalence and the danger of diseases of the lungs are familiar to all—and so, too, is the importance of distinguishing the nature of the disease at an early period of its development, that the patient may be placed under the most favorable circumstances, and receive the proper remedies for a restoration to health. This Infirmiry is expressly designed for giving medical advice and medicines, gratuitously, to the poor who are laboring under any disease of the lungs or heart. In the short period of thirty-six months, one hundred and seven cases have been recorded—as so many precedents for reference and future guidance. Besides those visited at their own homes, the regular increase of medical examinations is perceptibly increasing with the age and excellent character of the Infirmiry. Those who labor for its professional reputation are no medical cynics, but kind-hearted and proverbially obliging to the humblest applicant. In saying this, we speak from a personal knowledge of the manner of doing the regular business of the charity. It should be known that Mr. Charles White, a druggist well known in Boston, not to be outdone by the physicians, has generously given all the medicines prescribed at

the Infirmary, the past year. The rooms of the institution, for the present, are at No. 13 School street, and the hours of attendance from 12 to 1, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It is the best place in the city for medical students to learn the exact and scientific mode of auscultation.

*An American Giant.*—Mons. Behin, the gigantic Belgian, who exhibited himself in Boston the last autumn, was viewed with admiration and astonishment, as one of the most magnificent specimens of humanity in these latter days. The eclat of his colossal proportions, and of his success in exhibiting himself, reached the remote section of St. Josephs, in the State of Michigan, where there resided, in rural quietude, Charles Freeman, a youth, 19 years of age, whose stature had so outstripped the ordinary altitude of common men, that he began to think himself worth seeing—and with that impression firmly established in his mind, he came to the city of New York, and has finally arrived in Boston, where he is on exhibition at Mr. Harrington's Museum.

Having called, as others do, to gratify the common promptings of curiosity, we noted down the following items in relation to Mr. F.'s history.

Charles Freeman, significantly called the American Giant, and with much propriety, too, was born in the city of New York, July 16th, 1821, and will therefore be 19 years and six months old on the 16th of the present month. In height he measures *seven feet and three inches*, and weighs *three hundred and twenty pounds*! Around the chest the girth is *fifty-four inches*. When about three years of age, the family emigrated to Illinois, and ultimately settled at St. Josephs in Michigan, where he has been brought up to a life of honest industry on a farm, and has grown to be a wonder to himself. He is the youngest of four children—all pretty tall, though not strikingly so. The father stands over six feet, and the mother not far from five feet and six inches. The subject of these memoranda is a perfect youth in facial expression—having never been shaven till since leaving home. All the muscular apparatus belonging to his Herculean frame work of bones, is prodigiously developed. Of his tremendous strength there can be no question: At present he seems to be in the process of growing—having gained two inches the past year;—but what he is destined to be when his growth is completed, is past our divining. It may be conjectured that when the whole body is finished and has assumed the just proportions which nature evidently intends to give it, he will stand in the midst of the people of the United States, as Gulliver did in the kingdom of Lilliput, the wonder of a nation.

In accordance with our plan of giving permanent record to whatever may be even remotely serviceable to future chroniclers of science, amongst whom the members of the medical profession have ever been prominent, the foregoing notice of this interesting individual has been narrated.

*Smallpox.*—The disease is still rife in New York.—At Castine, Me., considerable alarm has been caused by the development of a bad case, to which very many seamen and inhabitants on shore were exposed before the character of the malady was detected. Seamen from the port of New York, some of whom will undoubtedly carry the smallpox in their systems to sea with them, may distribute this dreadful affliction widely over the world, and perhaps greatly affect commercial intercourse with foreign

parts. No vessel should go to sea without having every man on board thoroughly vaccinated. It would prevent unnecessary individual sufferings, and save all the perplexities of quarantine detentions and hospital expenses in other countries.

*Increase of Smallpox in London.*—"The deaths from smallpox have rapidly increased within the present year. The deaths in the metropolis at the close of 1839 were five weekly. Last week the deaths registered from smallpox amounted to 64. The rate of increase will be apparent from the subjoined statement:—

"Registered in the ten weeks, Jan. 5, March 14—72, or 7 weekly.

"Registered in the ten weeks, March 15, May 23—116, or 12 weekly.

"Registered in the ten weeks, May 21, August 1—148, or 15 weekly.

"Registered in the ten weeks, August 2, Oct. 10—226, or 22 weekly.

"The deaths from smallpox are now about five daily; and at the previous rates of increase will, unless prevented by vaccination, amount to 339 by Christmas, or in the next ten weeks."—*Lancet* of Nov. 14.

*Medical Miscellany.*—Dr. Dana is about giving a course of lectures on chemistry, at Lowell, which should be well patronized, for he is regarded as a superior instructor in that branch of useful knowledge.—A strange disease has been developed in Henry county, West Tennessee, which is exciting unusual alarm on account of its fatal character.—A meeting of the Censors of the Massachusetts Medical Society will be held at No. 9 Franklin street, Boston, on Wednesday, January 27th, at 4 o'clock, P. M., for the examination of candidates for licenses.—Mr. De Ville's phrenological cabinet consists of about 2400 specimens. Of national crania he has 500, besides a large collection of animals' skulls, &c., intensely interesting to the practical phrenologist. He has also a large collection of busts of ancient philosophers and great men of antiquity, taken from marbles originally in the Louvre, Florentine and Prussian galleries and private cabinets—"and it is surprising," says the scientific owner, "how phrenological developments bear out the biographical accounts of them."—Dr. McLeod, who was held to trial in Alabama for the murder of young Adrien the magician, about a year since, has been acquitted.—In the county of New Hanover, N. C., there are nine persons over 100 years of age. At the late presidential election, one of the number, who is a white man, being *one hundred and eight years* old, went to the polls and voted.—The Medical College of Ohio has 125 students. Louisville Medical Institute, 200. Transylvania, between 200 and 250; and the St. Louis School, 10 or 12.—The last No. of the Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery contains a long and somewhat severe reply to a late critique on Dr. Gross's Pathological Anatomy in the American Journal of Medical Sciences.

**MARRIED.**—At East Windsor, Ct., Dr. H. A. Hamilton, of Enfield, to Miss H. Watson, of the former place.—William H. Luce, M. D., of Tisbury, Ms., to Miss Abby J. Davis, of Chilmark.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Jan. 2, 29.—Males, 9—females, 19. Stillborn, 1.

Of consumption, 4—dropsy on the brain, 1—Rta, 1—old age, 4—burn, 1—erysipelas, 1—lung fever, 2—hooping cough, 2—intemperance, 2—croup, 1—inflammation of the brain, 1—typhous fever, 2—inflammation of the bowels, 1—child-bed, 1—epilepsy, 1.



## VERMONT MEDICAL COLLEGE, AT WOODSTOCK.

THE next annual course of Lectures at this Institution will commence on the second Thursday of March next, and continue thirteen weeks.

Theory and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics, by  
Anatomy and Physiology, by  
Medical Jurisprudence, by  
Principles and Practice of Surgery, by  
Chemistry and Natural History, by  
Materia Medica and Pharmacy, by

HENRY H. CHILDS, M.D.  
ROBERT WATTS, JR., M.D.  
HON. JACOB COLLAMER, A.M.  
LYMAN BARTLETT, M.D.  
ALONSO CLARK, M.D.  
B. H. FALLS, M.D.

Fee—for the course, \$25. For those who have already attended two full courses of lectures at a regular institution, \$15. Graduation fee, \$15.  
Woodstock, Vt., Jan. 1st, 1861.

Jan. 1—St

NORMAN WILLIAMS, Secretary.

## TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE annual instructions of the Tremont-street Medical School, for private pupils, will commence on the first day of September, consisting of lectures and examinations in the different branches of professional study—as follows:

A course of Lectures and Examinations on Anatomy, in September and October, by Dr. Reynolds, preparatory to the Winter Lectures at the Medical College.

A course of Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Surgery, including diseases of the Eye and Ear, by Dr. Reynolds. This course consists of one hundred lectures, and is continued nine months of the year during the whole period of pupils. Stated examinations are made in the above branches—and private examinations, if desired, of the graduating class.

Lectures and Examinations in Physiology and Pathology, with a distinct course upon Auscultation, by Dr. Holmes, who will also deliver, if time permits, a course of Lectures on Surgical Anatomy during the winter.

A course of Lectures on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women, and weekly examinations on the same branches and on Chemistry, by Dr. Storer. The above courses are illustrated by practical manipulations with the manikin. Arrangements have been made to provide the pupils with obstetric cases as often as may be necessary to familiarize them with this branch of practice.

The departments of Theory and Practice of Medicine, and Materia Medica, are under the superintendence of Dr. Sigelow—who will visit the Hospital with the pupils, for practical observation of diseases, and clinical instruction. The exploration of the chest in diseases of the thoracic organs, is made the subject of particular attention in these visits.

Practical Anatomy has always been a primary object in this school, and ample provision is made for a permanent supply of subjects from November to April. The teachers will avail themselves of occasional opportunities to show the pupils interesting cases in private practice—and operations in Surgery and Ophthalmic Disease. The pupils may attend daily on the practice of the physicians or surgeons of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Convenient rooms, light and fuel, are provided by the instructors.

JACOB SIGELOW,  
EDWARD REYNOLDS,  
D. HUMPHREY STORER,  
OLIVER W. HOLMES.

Boston, June 24, 1860.

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## SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Of every variety, both English and American, for sale low, by  
N. H.—epem BREWERS, STEVENS & CUSHING, Nos. 50 and 52 Washington st.

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DR. HAYNES's Instrument, which is recommended by the profession generally, may now be had at the Medical Journal office. Price, with perineal strap, only \$4—without, \$3.50. By addressing the publisher, No. 104 Washington street, physicians may be readily accommodated. A 19

The Supporters may also be obtained of the following agents:—In New Hampshire, Drs. J. A. Dana, N. Hampton; A. Harris, Colebrook; M. Parker, Acworth; J. Crosby, Meredith; D. Crosby, Hanover; L. S. Burdett, Kingston; L. Bartlett, Haverhill; F. P. Fitch, Amherst; Mr. J. H. Wheeler, Dover; N. Kendall & Co., Nashua. In Vermont, Dr. L. Jewett, St. Johnsbury.

## PROLAPSUS UTERI.

THE attention of the medical profession is respectfully invited to Dr. Chapin's Tero-abdominal Supporter and Elastic Belt, which has been recently much improved, and its efficacy thereby greatly increased. It has been faithfully tested by most of the medical faculty of Boston and New York, who have pronounced their unqualified approbation of its utility. Physicians in want, will obtain the measure round the pelvis. They can be supplied with the cheapest and best instrument of the kind in use, from the low price of \$4, to \$7, according to finish. Perineum strap (extra) at 75 cts. to \$1.50.

References may be had to the following physicians in Boston, among others who recommend this instrument:—Drs. John C. Warren, J. Ware, W. Channing, G. B. Doane, W. Lewis, J. Flint, J. Mason Warren, B. Palmer, J. C. G. Putnam, E. W. Leach.

Office No. 15 Howard, near Court st., Boston.

Nov. 25.—epem.

A. F. BARTLETT,

Agent for JOHN E. CHAPIN, M.D.

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*N H Westland*